

Series: Beginnings, Betrayal, Blessings
Title: FAVORED TO FALLEN: PREPARING FOR THE PITS
Text: Genesis 37

From Favored to.....Shattered Dreams.....There is purpose in the Pits

The Story

1-4 - **Dysfunctional family**

- Unruly brothers
 - An unfavorable report

² And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ... ⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.

- They hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.
- There was no civility
- Favored in heart
 - The heart of the Father

³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors.

- Favored in Future
 - He was to receive the firstborn birthright and blessing
 - Reuben's sin with Bilhah – foregoes his station
 - Firstborn of the second wife

5-11 – **Dreaming Adolescent**

- Arrogance or Ignorance
 - Dream of sheaves –
 - Your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.
 - They hated him even more
 - The brothers would bow to him
 - Dream of the Heavens
 - Sun, moon and stars will bow to ME

¹¹ And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

- The brothers and his father and mother would bow to him

12- 36- Dark Days of Destiny

Day one – Blessed Above All

¹³ *And Israel said to Joseph, “Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.” And he said to him, “Here I am.”* ¹⁴ *So he said to him, “Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring me word.”*

- Sent to the Brothers
- Father was once again oblivious
- A seemingly simple Task
- You are being obedient to the Father
- You are diligent in being obedient

Day two – Life in the Pits

²⁴ *And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.*

- Scheme to kill
- Reuben saves him
 - ²¹ *Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hand to restore him to his father.*
- The scheme to sell
 - Judah – “What profit is it to kill him?”
 - ²⁷ *Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.*
- The scheme to lie
 - The Robe, the Blood, the Grief

Day Three – A Slave far from Home

²⁸ *Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt. ...*

³⁶ *Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard.*

- A fifteen day journey
- Sold to Potiphar

What do you do when your world collapses?

Recognize that this is Part of Existence

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

¹ *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*

² *a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;*

³ *a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;*

⁴ *a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ...*

Reveal Your Emotions to God

- Jesus showed emotions in His distress

Matthew 27:45-46

⁴⁵ *Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.* ⁴⁶ *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

- Job was another man who suffered greatly by the will of God.
 - He lost his family, his fortune, his wife, and his reputation because God allowed Satan a measure of freedom to test his faithfulness.
 - From the very beginning, Job knew the trials he was experiencing ultimately came from God's hand.
 - He came to the point of wishing he'd never been born
 - (Job 3:1-3),
 - Yet, as he freely expressed these thoughts to God, he did not sin in the process.

Job 2:9-10

⁹ *Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die."* ¹⁰ *But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.*

- God can handle our emotions. Jesus understands how we feel. God is not an impersonal deity who is unmoved by our distress. He desires that we come to Him, and He is able to deal with our raw honesty.

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* ²⁹ *Take my yoke upon*

*you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

Hebrews 4:16

¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Revisit the Psalms

I share the text of Jesus revealing His emotions. Here is the Psalm that he spoke in his darkest hour.

Psalm 22:1-5

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? ² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. ³ Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. ⁴ In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. ⁵ To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

- Jesus echoed the Psalmist while on the cross
- David was prophesied to be king.
 - It would be years before God’s plan unfolded for David – years of turmoil and unfairness and running for his very life.
 - Surely, he felt at times that God was letting him down; certainly, he had moments when his trust in God wavered and his confidence in God’s sovereign plans was shaken.
- God gave him a gift –
 - An ability to put into words and music the deepest of his thoughts and emotions, and in the process, gave the world an outlet for expressing our feelings to God in a way that still honors Him as our Creator.

Psalm 18:6

In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.

Psalm 34:18

“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Reflect on the Character and Nature of God

Psalm 103:19

The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

Psalm 84:11

*For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.*

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, or those who are called according to his purpose.

Deuteronomy 32:4

*The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice.
A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.*

Recount the Lessons and Blessings to Others

Psalm 66:8-12, 16

⁸ *Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard,*

⁹ *who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.*

¹⁰ *For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.*

¹¹ *You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs;*

¹² *you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.*

¹⁶ *Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul.*

- As we express our feelings and emotions to God, find hope and peace through His Word, and reacquaint ourselves with His character, we will begin to see the good things God wants to bring out of our suffering.
- These lessons and blessings need to be shared, so they become part of our story. As we verbalize what God has done, our trust in Him will be renewed.
- The enemy hopes we will abandon our faith and turn away from God when we feel He has let us down.
- Instead, let your disappointments and suffering lead you into a richer, fuller relationship with the God who is completely trustworthy.

Conclusion and Prayer

CHALLENGE

Recognize that this is Part of Existence

Reveal Your Emotions to God

Revisit the Psalms

Reflect on the Character and Nature of God

Recount the Lessons and Blessings to Others

It is part of existence that you will have beautiful moments and broken moments

It is okay to reveal your emotions to God

When you are in the pits, go back and revisit the Psalms

Take time to see and reflect on the nature and character of God

Count the blessings in your life and share them with others